

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selectively handling data processing requests in a computer communications network comprising ~~the steps of:~~

identifying at least one type of dynamic data processing which can be performed in an edge server;

detecting a request for dynamic data processing in ~~network-distributable~~ a markup language document;

determining whether said edge server can perform said requested dynamic data processing based upon said identified types of dynamic data processing which can be performed in said edge server; and,

deferring processing of said request to an edge server ~~if it is determined~~ in response to the determination that said edge server can perform said requested dynamic data processing.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said deferring step~~ deferring processing of said request to an edge server in response to the determination that said edge server can perform said requested dynamic data processing comprises ~~the steps of:~~

determining whether it is preferable to defer processing of said request to an edge server; and,

deferring processing of said request to an edge server ~~if it is determined~~ in response to the determination that it is preferable to defer processing of said request to said edge server.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~if it is determined that said dynamic data processing can be performed in said edge server,~~ generating markup which contains said request for dynamic data processing, encapsulating said markup in a response; and; forwarding said response to said edge server in response to the determination that said dynamic data processing can be performed in said edge server, wherein said edge server can perform said deferred processing.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~if it is determined that said dynamic data processing cannot be performed in said edge server,~~ performing said data processing, said data processing producing a result, generating markup which contains said result, encapsulating said markup in a response; and; forwarding said response to said edge server in response to the determination that said dynamic data processing cannot be performed in said edge server, wherein said edge server can forward said response to requesting user.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for selectively handling data processing requests in a computer communications network comprising ~~the steps of:~~

configuring a tag handler to perform dynamic data processing;
further configuring said tag handler to identify whether a specified edge server can perform said dynamic data processing;
establishing a tag definition corresponding to said tag handler; and,

embedding references to said tag definition and said tag handler in network distributable markup;

~~whereby an origin server processing said markup can locate said tag handler based upon said tag definition and can determine from said tag handler whether to defer processing of a data processing request to said specified edge server or whether to process said request locally in said origin server.~~

6. (Originally Filed) A system for selectively processing a request for dynamic data processing in a computer communications network comprising:

a tag handler library comprising a plurality of tag handlers configured to perform dynamic data processing;

a tag definition file comprising a plurality of tag definitions, each said tag definition associating a tag handler with a particular markup language tag;

an application processor configured to process markup and to invoke tag handlers corresponding to particular markup language tags detected in said markup as specified by tag definitions in said tag definition file; and,

deferred processing logic configured to modify a request header to specify which types of dynamic data processing said system can process, said deferred processing logic being further configured to pre-process markup for processing in said application processor.

7. (Originally Filed) The system of claim 6, wherein said tag handler comprises a Java class.

8. (Originally Filed) The system of claim 6, wherein said markup is a Java Server Page (JSP) and said markup language tag is a customized JSP tag.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for selectively handling data processing requests in a computer communications network comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving in an edge server an HTTP request for a Java Server Page (JSP), said HTTP request comprising an HTTP request header;

modifying said HTTP request header to indicate whether said edge server can process JSP program fragments having particular markup tags;

forwarding said HTTP request comprising said modified HTTP request header to an origin server, said origin server processing said HTTP request by serving said requested JSP, but deferring processing of any JSP program fragments in said JSP having said particular markup tags, and returning said requested JSP to said edge server; and,
processing said deferred JSP program fragments in said edge server.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~said modifying step~~ modifying said HTTP request header to indicate whether said edge server can process JSP program fragments having particular markup tags comprises:

determining whether said edge server is configured to process JSP program fragments having particular markup tags;

~~if it is determined that said edge server is not configured to process JSP program fragments having particular markup tags;~~ configuring said edge server with selected markup tag handlers so that said edge server can process said JSP program fragments in response to the determination that said edge server is not configured to process JSP program fragments having particular markup tags; and,

modifying said HTTP request header to indicate that said edge server can process said JSP program fragments having said particular markup tags;

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium, the computer useable medium comprising a computer readable program, wherein the computer readable program when executed on a computer causes the computer to perform~~A machine-readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for selectively handling data processing requests in a computer communications network, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:~~

identifying at least one type of dynamic data processing which can be performed in an edge server;

detecting a request for dynamic data processing in ~~network-distributable~~ a markup language document;

determining whether said edge server can perform said requested dynamic data processing based upon said identified types of dynamic data processing which can be performed in said edge server; and,

deferring processing of said request to an edge server ~~if it is determined~~ in response to the determination that said edge server can perform said requested dynamic data processing.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~ computer program product of claim 11, wherein ~~said deferring step~~ deferring processing of said request to an edge server in response to the determination that said edge server can perform said requested dynamic data processing comprises ~~the steps of~~:

determining whether it is preferable to defer processing of said request to an edge server;
and,

deferring processing of said request to an edge server ~~if it is determined~~ in response to the determination that it is preferable to defer processing of said request to said edge server.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~ computer program product of claim 11, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~if it is determined that said dynamic data processing can be performed in said edge server,~~ generating markup which contains said request for dynamic data processing, encapsulating said markup in a response; and, forwarding said response to said edge server in response to the determination that said dynamic data processing can be performed in said edge server, wherein said edge server can perform said deferred processing.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-readable storage~~ computer program product of claim 13, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~if it is determined that said dynamic data processing cannot be performed in said edge server,~~ performing said data processing, said data processing producing a result, generating markup which contains said result, encapsulating said markup in a response, and, forwarding said response to said edge server in response to the determination that said dynamic data processing cannot be performed in said edge server, wherein said edge server can forward said response to requesting user.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium, the computer useable medium comprising a computer readable program, wherein the computer readable program when executed on a computer causes the computer to perform~~A machine readable storage storing thereon a computer program for selectively handling data processing requests in a computer communications network, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:~~

receiving in an edge server an HTTP request for a Java Server Page (JSP), said HTTP request comprising an HTTP request header;

modifying said HTTP request header to indicate whether said edge server can process JSP program fragments having particular markup tags;

forwarding said HTTP request comprising said modified HTTP request header to an origin server, said origin server processing said HTTP request by serving said requested JSP, but deferring processing of any JSP program fragments in said JSP having said particular markup tags, and returning said requested JSP to said edge server; and,

processing said deferred JSP program fragments in said edge server.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine readable storage~~computer program product of claim 15, wherein ~~said modifying step~~modifying said HTTP request header to indicate whether said edge server can process JSP program fragments having particular markup tags comprises:

determining whether said edge server is configured to process JSP program fragments having particular markup tags;

~~if it is determined that said edge server is not configured to process JSP program fragments having particular markup tags,~~ configuring said edge server with selected markup tag handlers so that said edge server can process said JSP program fragments in response to the that said edge server is not configured to process JSP program fragments having particular markup tags; and,

modifying said HTTP request header to indicate that said edge server can process said JSP program fragments having said particular markup tags;